

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 767**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ammiano**

February 26, 2009

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An act to add Chapter 6.1 (commencing with Section 13725) to Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to homeless youth.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 767, as introduced, Ammiano. Homeless youth: counseling services.

Under existing law, specified counties operate pilot projects relating to homeless youth emergency services.

This bill would require counties to provide counseling services, as prescribed, to homeless and at-risk youth. By imposing new duties on counties, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 6.1 (commencing with Section 13725) is added to Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

CHAPTER 6.1. HOMELESS YOUTH COUNSELING SERVICES

13725. (a) A county shall provide counseling services for homeless and at-risk youth under 26 years of age. In order to provide a sufficient level of counseling services, a county shall provide, at minimum, one counselor for every 100 homeless youth residing in the county.

(b) A counselor shall be prepared to advise and provide information to homeless or at-risk youth regarding locally provided services, including, but not limited to, the following services:

- (1) Shelter.
- (2) Food.
- (3) Psychological services and treatment.
- (4) Education and educational programs.
- (5) Health clinics.
- (6) Financial assistance.

(c) In addition to services directly related to homelessness, a counselor shall also be prepared to provide counseling services to youths on topics sometimes associated with the issue of homelessness, including, but not limited to, a history of drug and alcohol abuse, a history of domestic violence, or confronting questions of personal sexual orientation.

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.